

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
West Central Region Headquarters
1300 W. Clairemont Avenue
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Eau Claire WI 54702-4001

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Scott Humrickhouse, Regional Director
Telephone 715-839-3700
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February 10, 2011

LeRoy Wilder
Xcel Energy
PO Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

Subject: Reported Contamination at Owen Park MGP Site
Intersection of 1st Ave & Hudson St, Eau Claire, WI
WDNR BRRTS Activity # 02-18-556733

Dear Mr. Wilder:

On February 9, 2011, Cedar Corporation, on behalf of Xcel Energy, notified the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ("WDNR") that polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), petroleum volatile organic compounds (PVOs), lead, arsenic and cyanide contamination has been detected at the property site described above.

Based on the information that has been submitted to the WDNR regarding this site, the Department believes you are responsible for investigating and restoring the environment at the above described site under Section 292.11, Wisconsin Statutes, known as the hazardous substances spills law.

This letter describes the legal responsibilities of a person who is responsible under section 292.11, explains what you need to do to investigate and clean up the contamination, and provides you with information about cleanups, environmental consultants, possible financial assistance, and working cooperatively with the WDNR and Department of Commerce (Commerce).

Legal Responsibilities:

Your legal responsibilities are defined both in statute and in administrative codes. The hazardous substances spill law, Section 292.11 (3) Wisconsin Statutes, states:

- **RESPONSIBILITY.** A person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance which is discharged or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance shall take the actions necessary to restore the environment to the extent practicable and minimize the harmful effects from the discharge to the air, lands, or waters of the state.

Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters NR 700 through NR 749 establish requirements for emergency and interim actions, public information, site investigations, design and operation of remedial action systems, and case closure. Wisconsin Administrative Code chapter NR 140 establishes groundwater standards for contaminants that reach groundwater.

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Steps to Take:

To ensure that your cleanup complies with Wisconsin's laws and administrative codes, you should hire a professional environmental consultant who understands what needs to be done. These are the first steps to take:

1. Within the next **30 days**, by March 9, 2011, you should submit written verification (such as a letter from the consultant) that you have hired an environmental consultant. If you do not take action within this time frame, the WDNR may initiate enforcement action against you.
2. Within the next **60 days**, by April 9, 2011, your consultant should submit a work plan and schedule for the investigation. The consultant must comply with the requirements in the NR 700 Wis. Adm. Code rule series and should adhere to current WDNR technical guidance documents.

In addition, within 30 days of completion of the site investigation, your consultant should submit a site investigation report to the department.

Sites where discharges to the environment have been reported are entered into the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System ("BRRTS"), a version of which appears on the WDNR's internet site. You may view the information related to your site at any time (<http://botw.dnr.state.wi.us/botw/Welcome.do>) and use the feedback system to alert us to any errors in the data. Search for the name; Owen Park MGP Site or by BRRTS #02-18-556733.

If you want a formal written response from the department on a specific submittal, please be aware that a review fee is required in accordance with ch. NR 749, Wis. Adm. Code. If a fee is not submitted with your reports, you should proceed under the advice of your consultant to complete the site investigation and cleanup to maintain your compliance with the spills law and chapters NR 700 through NR 749. **Do not delay the investigation of your site by waiting for an agency response.** We have provided detailed technical guidance to environmental consultants. Your consultant is expected to know our technical procedures and administrative rules and should be able to answer your questions on meeting cleanup requirements.

All correspondence regarding this site should be sent to:

Doug Joseph
Remediation and Redevelopment Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 4001
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001
Doug.Joseph@Wisconsin.gov
Phone 715-839-1602

Unless otherwise requested, please send only one copy of plans and reports. In addition to the paper copy, an electronic copy may also be submitted. To speed processing, correspondence should reference the **BRRTS #02-18-556733**.

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Additional Information for Site Owners :

We encourage you to visit our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>, where you can find information on selecting a consultant, financial assistance and understanding the cleanup process. You will also find information there about liability clarification letters, post-cleanup liability and more.

If you have questions, call me at 715-839-1602 for more information or visit the RR web site at the address above.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Joseph", written over a horizontal line.

Doug Joseph
Hydrogeologist
Remediation & Redevelopment Program

C: Mitch Evenson, Cedar Corp, 604 Wilson Ave, Menomonie, WI 54751